

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please delete the section entitled "ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE" in its entirety and substitute the following section therefor:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus for performing cryptographic operations. The apparatus includes fetch logic, algorithm logic, and execution logic. The fetch logic is disposed within a microprocessor and is configured to receive a cryptographic instruction as ~~part of an instruction flow~~ one of the instructions in an application program executing on the microprocessor. The cryptographic instruction prescribes one of the cryptographic operations and one of a plurality of cryptographic algorithms. The algorithm logic is disposed within the microprocessor and is operatively coupled to the cryptographic instruction. The algorithm logic directs the microprocessor to execute the one of the cryptographic operations according to the one of a plurality of cryptographic algorithms. The execution logic is disposed within the microprocessor and operatively coupled to the algorithm logic. The execution logic executes the one of the cryptographic operations.